

Remarks/Arguments

Reconsideration of this application is requested.

Claim Status

Claims 1-20 were presented. Claims 1 and 4 are amended. Claims 3, 14, 15 and 18-20 are canceled, without prejudice. Claims 1, 2, 4-13, 16 and 17 are now pending.

Allowable Subject Matter

The allowance of claims 16 and 17 is noted and appreciated.

Claim 3, which depends directly from claim 1, is indicated as allowable if rewritten in independent form. Accordingly, claim 1 is rewritten to include all limitations of claim 3, and claim 3 is canceled without prejudice. Thus, claim 1 is now in condition for allowance. Claims 2 and 5-13 depend from claim 1 and are similarly allowable.

Claim 4, which depends directly from claim 1, is indicated as allowable if rewritten in independent form. Accordingly, claim 4 is rewritten in independent form to include all limitations of claim 1, and is now in condition for allowance.

Claim Rejections

Claims 1, 2, 5, 7-11, 14, 15, 18 and 20 are rejected under 35 USC 102(b) as anticipated by Tsunoda (US 4,475,622). Claims 12 and 13 are rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as obvious over Tsunoda in view of Hattori (US 4,696,366). Claims 6 and 19 are rejected as obvious over Tsunoda in view of Ikenoya (US 4,437,306).

In response, as discussed above, claim 1 is amended into allowable form. Accordingly, the rejections of claim 1 and claims 2 and 5-13 depending from claim 1 are now moot. Claims 14, 15 and 18-20 are canceled, without prejudice.

Conclusion

This application is now in condition for allowance. The Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned to resolve any issues that remain after entry of this amendment.


Appl. No. 10/780,279
Amdt. dated August 2, 2006
Reply to Office Action of June 2, 2006

Atty. Ref. 89277.0023
Customer No. 26021

Any fees due with this response may be charged to our Deposit Account No.
50-1314.

Respectfully submitted,
HOGAN & HARTSON L.L.P.

Date: August 2, 2006

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